

2/15/02

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/13/02

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 13, 2002. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair; Greg Helms, Co-Chair; Jean Holmes; Drew Bohan; Mike McGinnis; Cory Gallipeau; Rick Skillin

## I. INTRODUCTION

The mission and purpose of the CWG was described for new public attendees. The CWG members introduced themselves.

## II. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE

Greg Helms provided a handout that included a schedule of upcoming state and federal processes regarding the potential designation of marine reserves within existing Sanctuary boundaries. The Fish and Game Commission, which has jurisdiction within the first 3 miles from shore around the Channel Islands, has identified the 25% set-aside alternative as the “working” preferred option pending completion of environmental review. The Commission is in the process of conducting environmental review of the preferred option as well as other alternatives ranging from 0-34%. The Commission will meet on April 4 in Long Beach, and will make a final decision at its August 2 hearing in San Luis Obispo. The Sanctuary program will then consider reserves within federal waters (3-6 miles around the Islands).

Linda Krop reported on the role of the Advisory Council in the marine reserves process. The Advisory Council already submitted certain recommendations to the Sanctuary and Fish and Game Commission. At this point in time, the Council will assist the agencies in developing implementation and monitoring programs that could be incorporated into a program of marine reserves.

## III. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Linda Krop provided a handout describing the issues that will be reviewed during the Management Plan Update process. A draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are expected to be released in June, 2002. The issues to be discussed include:

boundary expansion; program areas; and regulations. The CWG discussed the issue areas and the role of the SAC and CWG in responding to the proposed Plan. The CWG discussed the possibility of sponsoring a public forum when the Draft Plan and EIS are available. In addition, individual CWG members and the groups they represent will assist with public outreach and education. CWG members also expressed an interest in working on various aspects of the Plan. The issue areas that generated the most interest included: water quality; marine/terrestrial interface; boundary expansion; and education.

The public discussion pointed out the need for improved educational materials for people that recreate in Sanctuary waters. The discussion was referred to agency staff and the Education Working Group.

#### IV. 2002 SCHEDULE

The CWG will adopt an annual meeting schedule for 2002 which will be posted on the CINMS web page. The next meeting will be held on April 24.